

Crime Reduction, How can You help?

The 2015 TBI crime report was recently released. The Tullahoma Police Department report reflected a 12% overall decrease from the previous report. In 2015, the police department reported 1,651 incidents, compared to 1,859 for 2014, a decrease of 208 incidents. The TBI uses a standard formula to compute a crime rate based on 100,000 population, the formula will create a standardized crime rate value. In 2015 Tullahoma reflected a crime rate of 8,736 per 100,000 population. The TBI began using this type of incident reporting in 2002. Tullahoma's 2015 rate is the lowest since the reports have been produced. With the exceptions of 2010 and 2014, the Tullahoma crime rate has shown a steady decrease. What can we do in order to keep the downward trend continuing?

The crime report reflects a large variety of offenses in categories of Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society. As a community we can impact the categories by continuing a partnership between the police and the community. Everyone is encouraged "if you see something, report it". In the area of Crimes Against Persons, domestic violence related incidents represent over 56% of all incidents in this category. As a community we need to emphasize, support, and make known the resources; non-profit and governmental, that provide domestic violence education, assistance, and protection. In the category of Crimes Against Property, specifically thefts from vehicles, over 75% of the thefts are from unlocked vehicles. Less than 25% of these type incidents are the result of force being used to enter the vehicle. The number of incidents can be reduced by locking vehicles, removing valuables from the vehicles, and not leaving valuables in plain view. The unlocked vehicle provides an opportunity for someone to rummage through the car, find something of value, and often leave undetected. We, the community, can continue to improve the quality of life we deserve by practicing better crime prevention techniques.

Our partnership is strong, let's continue to focus on personal safety, reducing our vulnerabilities, notifying police of suspicious activities, and utilizing the resources our communities offer. The complete crime report can be found on the TBI website at: <http://www.tn.gov/tbi/article/recent-publications>. Questions about this or other police operations can be directed to me at (931) 455-0530, or pblackwell@tullahomatan.gov.